



## **Cincinnati Fire Department Receives Paramedic Accreditation**

The Cincinnati Fire Department (CFD) has received accreditation from the Ohio Department of Public Safety that permits the CFD to provide city fire fighters initial Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician Basic Training. The in-house training program will enable the Cincinnati Fire Department to provide a higher quality of education to a significantly larger number of firefighters, at a reduced cost, thus positioning the CFD to have more paramedics in its Emergency Medical System.

The 48-week training began January 15 and includes 24 Cincinnati fire fighters in the initial training class, with 30 firefighters trained in subsequent years.

Fire Chief Robert Wright said "due to the ever-increasing demands placed on our Emergency Medical System, there is a need for additional paramedics. For the first time in our 35-year history of providing emergency medical services that the Cincinnati Fire Department is able to offer paramedic and emergency medical technician training. This allows us to have a training system that will enhance our goal of providing the best quality emergency medical services to the citizens of Cincinnati."

The CFD anticipates achieving savings through the flexibility of providing in-house training around firefighters' schedules, and the decrease in the costs to send fire fighters to training at local colleges and universities. Prior to the in-house training program now in place, about 5 to 7 firefighters were trained annually at local colleges and universities.

Over the past six months, the Cincinnati Fire Department has worked diligently to receive the accreditation. The accreditation process involved a comprehensive self-study of the educational capabilities of the department, culminating with a site visit from the educational branch of the State of Ohio's Division of Emergency Medical Services. The approval process included a presentation, review of CFD paperwork, and interviews with program administration, faculty, and clinical preceptors. Work to complete the accreditation process was completed alongside regular duties. With the accreditation, Cincinnati will have the state's second fully integrated, fire-based educational program to be accredited by the State of Ohio.

For more information, please contact District Chief Fred Prather at 357-7595